



# TROOP 31

SERVING THE YOUTH OF RAMSEY, NJ SINCE 1912  
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## 2012 JANUARY 2012

I'd like to start off by wishing the entire Troop 31 family a Happy and Healthy New Year! The beginning of a New Year provides us with a great opportunity to restart our engines. We can focus on what it will take to accomplish our goals (and all those New Year's resolutions!). There are many goals we should consider: family, friends, schoolwork, faith, health and yes, even scouting.

Let me focus (there's that word again!) on scouting. The Troop has many outings planned for the next several months. There are opportunities to go camping, hiking, helping those less fortunate, pitching in on an Eagle Project—too many to mention right now. We have established several new Merit Badge Counselors within the Troop (myself included) to assist you in your advancement. This is a great time to be an active Scout in Troop 31!

Let me conclude by reminding you of this: Being an active Scout gives you the opportunity to learn skills that you will remember for the rest of your life. Through Scouting, you can learn how to canoe, establish a campsite, handle emergencies with first aid or a cool head, become a better citizen, and learn to take care of yourself and family. "What did you do this weekend?": What a great question to ask a Scout!

Yours in Scouting,  
Mike McKiever  
Scoutmaster  
Troop 31

*The Troop 31 Newsletter wishes SM McKiever a speedy recovery from his illness!*

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C O R N E R . . . . .

## Upcoming Events Mark-Your-Calendar 6 weeks out (details on following pages)

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>What</i>	<i>Where &amp; how</i>
Monday, 1/9	5:45–8:15P	<b><i>Snow Tubing at Campgaw</i></b>	Campgaw Mountain, 200 Campgaw Rd., Mahwah. Complete Campgaw's tubing release form on their website at <a href="http://www.skicampgaw.com">http://www.skicampgaw.com</a>
Saturday–Sunday, 1/14 – 1/15	Sat 7A – Sun 12N	<b><i>Winter Cabin Camping</i></b>	Peterson Lodge, Camp Turrell, Dow Drukker Scout Reservation, Cuddebackville, NY.
Monday, 1/16		<b>NO MEETING</b>	MLK Day! Celebrate civil rights progress and leadership!
Tuesday, 1/17	7 – 9P	<b><i>Scout Swim at Rockland County College</i></b>	Rockland County College, to work on 1st and 2d Class swim & water requirements. \$4 & <a href="#">permission slip</a> to ASM Odin <a href="mailto:odinj01@excite.com">odinj01@excite.com</a> <b>by 1/11.</b>
Wednesday, 1/18	7:30 – 9P	Dragon & Lightning Patrol meeting	Masonic Lodge
Saturday, 1/21	6:30A – 4:30P	<b><i>2012 Klondike Derby</i></b>	Shepherd Lake, Ringwood, NJ. \$5 & <a href="#">permission slip</a> to Alex Stecyna <b>by 1/17 and call in your commitment to Mr. Stecyna.</b>
Monday, 1/23	7:30 – 9P	Troop Meeting	Ramsey High School
Thursday, 1/26	7:30P	Committee Meeting	Ramsey Municipal Building
Saturday, 1/28	6:30A – 11A	<b><i>Saint John's Soup Kitchen</i></b>	Newark, NJ. <a href="#">Permission slip</a> to Mr. Watters <b>by 1/28.</b> See permission slip for transportation details.
Monday, 1/30	7:30 – 9P	Troop Meeting	Ramsey High School
<b><i>February</i></b>			
Wednesday, 2/1	7:30 – 9P	Dragon & Lightning Patrol meeting	Masonic Lodge
Monday, 2/6	7:30 – 9P	PLC	Ramsey High School
Monday, 2/13	7:30 – 9P	Troop Meeting	Ramsey High School
Wednesday, 2/15	7:30 – 9P	Dragon & Lightning Patrol meeting	Masonic Lodge
Friday, 2/17 – Sunday, 2/19	Fri 6P – Sun 12N	<b><i>2012 (100th Annual!) Valley Forge Pilgrimage and Encampment</i></b>	\$60 & <a href="#">permission slip</a> to ASM Baxer <b>by 1/18.</b> Winter tent camping in Valley Forge National Historic Park and attending Scouting's longest-running annual event in any local council in the BSA (the first pilgrimage was in 1913). Prepare with appropriate cold weather

			clothing. All Scouts attending this outing must attend the seminar presented by trained Scouts to instruct them on the clothing and equipment necessary for this cold weather camping adventure.
Monday, 2/20		<b>NO MEETING</b>	Presidents' Day! Celebrate our great Presidential heritage!



**Medical form updates!** The BSA now requires that the Troop hold copies of all Scouts' medical forms and carry them on all outings (day or overnight) in which a Scout participates. Their latest medical form for all scouts and adults [is now available on the BSA site](#). Please make sure you **have an updated form on file** with the Troop in order to be eligible to **participate in all outings!** *Questions?* Please contact **Stuart Zweighaft** at [sjavzee@aol.com](mailto:sjavzee@aol.com) or at **201-394-6187**.

## Outings details

1. **January 9, 5:45P – 8:15P: Snow Tubing at Campgaw Mountain!** Plenty of slots are open and Campgaw assures us there will be enough snow on Monday! Friends and family members are welcome! Each person who wishes to go down the slope on a tube should fill out both a Troop 31 permission slip and a Campgaw waiver form as well as the \$14 fee. If you cannot drop them off at 30 Ramsey Ave, Ramsey, NJ before Monday, bring the forms with you to the outing. Bring money for some hot cocoa if desired. You will not be charged for the electronic tag to go up the slope unless you forget to return it at the end of the event. ***Itinerary:***
  - We'll meet at Campgaw Mountain at 5:45P inside the new pavilion. Each person tubing—family and friends too, not just Scouts—should bring a Troop 31 permission slip and waiver (with the \$14) if you didn't already hand them in.
  - Guardian pick up at Campgaw Mountain at 8:15P.
  - ***Questions?*** ASM Odin at [odinj01@excite.com](mailto:odinj01@excite.com)
  
2. **January 14 – 15: Return to Peterson Lodge for an overnight winter cabin camping trip!** The Lodge is located in Camp Turrell, part of the Dow Drukker Scout Reservation in the southern Catskills in Cuddebackville, NY. Last year, we had a great time on this outing, with a roaring fire, sledding down a camp trail, walking across the entire frozen lake, exploring wild animal tracks, and having a snowball fight at the rock quarry!
  - As usual, the daytime activities will depend on the weather.
  - Of course, you will also have the excitement of cooking on open stoves in winter weather.
  - Peterson Lodge sleeps 24 and has mattresses, electricity, and a wood burning stove.

- The trip will be limited to the first 18 scouts and 6 adults that return the [permission slip](#) with \$35 to ASM Baxer, no later than December 15.
- *Questions?* ASM Baxer

**3. January 17, 7 – 9P: Swimming and Water Safety at Rockland Community College.** What is more fun in the middle of winter than going swimming? It's the perfect time to get those pesky second- and first-class swimming requirements out of the way.

*This is not a session for non-swimmers. Itinerary:*

- Three adult volunteers are needed!
- Return permission slip to ASM Odin by Jan 11.
- We'll meet at the Municipal Parking Lot at 7:00 PM on Jan. 17th.
- Guardian pick up at Municipal Parking Lot at 9:00 PM on Jan. 17th.
- *Questions?* ASM Odin at odinj01@excite.com

**4. January 21, 6:30A – 4:30P: Ramapo Valley 2012 Gold Rush Klondike Derby!** Shepherd Lake Recreation Area, Ringwood State Park. Many years ago, men raced across the Canadian frozen wilderness by means of dogs and sleds. Scouting has taken this idea and came up with the idea of the Klondike Derby as an activity for Boy Scouts. We are returning to the classic Gold Rush Klondike Derby as this year's theme. This year's Klondike will be a day packed with activities that mimic what explorers might have encountered during the 1896 Klondike Gold Rush. We expect this year's event to be better the previous years', with more participants (sleds), towns, activities, and locations than years past. NOTE: If we do not get *at least 7 - 8 (4 of which need to be older scouts)*, then running the sled will be a challenge and *we will have to cancel* and not represent Troop 31 this year ... so PLEASE let us know ASAP. *Itinerary:*

- Some of the activities test life-or-death skills, such as first aid and building a fire, and some are just fun.
- There will be separate competitions for younger scout sleds and older individual scouts.
- If you are committed to joining the team (to assemble a group to run the sled or to help out with a town), please submit \$5 & [permission slip](#) by January 17, 2012 AND *CALL OR EMAIL Mr. Alex Stecyna* to let him know that you are committed to the event, at pianotunernj@yahoo.com or 201-286-2300 (cell).
- *Questions?* Alex Stecyna, pianotunernj@yahoo.com or 201-286-2300 (cell)

**5. January 28, 6:30 – 11A: Annual Saint John's Soup Kitchen service.** It is time once again for an annual trip to Saint John's Soup Kitchen in Newark on January 28. This is a trip that not only gives you four hours of service credit, but also opens your eyes to a world that many people don't want to see. Saint John's Soup Kitchen serves over 200 people each day, for breakfast and lunch.

Come one, come all! We will be leaving, bright and early, at 6:30A and will be back to Ramsey by about 11A. If you have any questions, please e-mail Mr. Watters at [twatters@wattersfinancial.com](mailto:twatters@wattersfinancial.com).

- 6. February 17 - 19: The 2012 Pilgrimage and Encampment in the Valley Forge National Park.** This outdoor winter tent camping weekend event is run by the Cradle of Liberty Council and is the longest continuously running Scouting event in the world. This year will be the 100th annual visit to Valley Forge, and the theme of the weekend will be to honor General George Washington. You will get to explore the Park, stop in at the Visitors Center, and attend the program events set up by Cradle of Liberty Council. This event is an excellent opportunity to demonstrate your Scout skills! In order to attend the Encampment, you **must**:
- Receive training from those who attended the *Cradle of Liberty Council's Cold Weather Training Seminar*.
  - Return the [Encampment permission slip](#) and \$60 to ASM Baxer by 1/18.
  - *Questions?* ASM Baxer

## Troop news ~ needs ~ no-no's ~ NOWs!

**February 24 – 25: Northeastern Council Ski Trip to Belleayre Mountain.** Not a Troop event: [Register directly on the Council website](#).

**February 25: Geocaching?** ASM or Parent Leader needed! Details to follow!

**March 10: The Old New York Historical Trail Hike.** Located in lower Manhattan, the Old New York Historical Trail is a popular walking tour rich in the history of New York and the entire country. Some areas included on the tour will be the South Street Seaport Museum; Fraunces Tavern; Washington Square in Greenwich Village; Castle Clinton; Wall Street, the financial capital of the world; Chinatown & Little Italy; Federal Hall, site of Washington's Inauguration; Trinity Church and graveyard; the World Trade Center construction site; and much more. This is a six- to seven-hour trail that promises to be both enjoyable and educational for all. We will take a train from Ramsey to Hoboken and the PATH train into NYC. The trip is planned for Saturday, March 10, 2012. A permission slip will be placed on the Troop website later this month. It needs to be returned to Mr. Baxer by February 20, 2012.

**Troop 31 Turns 100!** As you may know, Troop 31 is one of the oldest Troops in the country. *In 2012*, we will be celebrating 100 years of continuous service to the Scouts of the Ramsey community.

We have several activities planned throughout the year. Our activities include (tentatively):

- Beefsteak Dinner

- Centennial Reception
- Troop 31 Showcase at Finch Park (free to the public)
- Historical Journal (available throughout the year)

We have an immediate need for volunteers to help us make all our events successful. Please call Claudia Perkins at: 201-679-8545 to get your name on our list. Thank you!

**Summer Camp Update (July 29 - August 4):** Just a reminder that Troop 31 will once again enjoy time in the great outdoors this summer. We'll be attending "Week #5" at Camp NoBeBoSco (Sun. July 29 - Sat. August 4). We'll pass along information concerning the particulars as soon as we can. Wow—only 6 months to go!

### Meeting schedule & locations.

- “Monday Patrols” 7:30P at [Ramsey High School](#)
- “Wednesday Patrols”—Dragon and Lightning—first and third Wednesdays, 7:30P at the Masonic Lodge
- PLCs: Beginning in October, PLCs are held on the first Monday of each month at 7:30P at Ramsey High School. PLCs require SPL, ASPLs, Scribe, QM, and all Patrol Leaders.
- *Questions?* Scoutmaster McKiever [mmc57@optonline.net](mailto:mmc57@optonline.net)

**Important information for future Eagles:** There is a new Eagle Workbook for all Eagle Scout candidates. National BSA has made the booklet available on their website. There have been several changes in the procedures and the way a candidate records his information. The Merit Badge requirement remains the same (21 MBs). All Scouts should familiarize themselves with the new booklet and its contents, which can be accessed at <http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/BoyScouts/AdvancementandAwards/resources.aspx>.



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